

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 03108 082023Z
ACTION H-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-07 SS-14 /023 W
-----021160 082032Z /47
R 081347Z MAR 78 ZFF4
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1732
INFO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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STADIS////////////////////

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OREP (OBERSTAR, JAMES)
SUBJECT: CODEL OBERSTAR

REF: STATE 51544

1. EMBASSY ACTIVELY ENCOURAGES VISITS OF AS MANY CODELS AS POSSIBLE TO ISRAEL. WE BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT FOR CONGRESS TO BE WELL INFORMED ON THE DETAILS OF THE EXCEEDINGLY COMPLEX PROBLEMS OF THIS AREA IN WHICH THE U.S. HAS SUCH A HIGH STAKE. ISRAELIS ALSO PROMOTE VISITS BY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.

2. HAVING SAID THIS, IT IS NECESSARY TO INJECT A NOTE OF REALISM INTO THE TYPE OF PROGRAM A SINGLE (AND NOT VERY SENIOR) CONGRESSMAN ON A PRIVATE VISIT CAN REASONABLY EXPECT. WE DO NOT FEEL JUSTIFIED IN PUSHING FOR APPOINTMENTS WITH ALL THE TOP GOI LEADERS. NEITHER CAN A SCHEDULE OF THE TYPE PROPOSED IN REFTEL BE ARRANGED SO EASILY OVER SHABBAT. OUR SUGGESTION IS THAT IN SUCH CASES THE DEPARTMENT AVOID INFLATING
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PAGE 02 TEL AV 03108 082023Z

EXPECTATIONS. IF VISITORS WILL ADVISE US OF THEIR SUBJECTS AND PLACES OF INTEREST, WE WILL DO OUR BEST TO SEE THAT A FULL AND ENJOYABLE SCHEDULE IS ARRANGED.

3. WE APPRECIATE THAT THE ABOVE ADVICE IS EASIER TO GIVE THAN TO FOLLOW, BUT WE BELIEVE A REAL TRY SHOULD BE MADE. WHEN FACED WITH A REQUEST OF

THE TYPE OF CODEL OBERSTAR, THE EMBASSY TURNS TO
THE VISITORS BUREAU OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS--
AN EXTREMELY HARD-WORKING AND COOPERATIVE ORGANIZATION.
WE CANNOT BE IN THE POSITION, HOWEVER, OF ASKING THEM
TO PULL ALL THE STOPS FOR EVERY CONGRESSIONAL VISITOR.
IN THIS PARTICULAR CASE, WE PASSED ON THE REQUEST WITH-
OUT COMMENT.
LEWIS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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